

REMARKS

Claims 102, 104 – 112 are pending, with claim 102 and 108 – 112 being independent. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claim 102 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 103 merely to expedite prosecution and to even more clearly recite and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Claims 105 and 106 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 103, 113, and 114 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 108-112 are allowed and claims 103, 106, and 107 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, since specific species embraced in these claims are not taught or suggested by the art of record or from a search in the relevant art area.

Accordingly, claim 102 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 103, thus obviating the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) and placing the claims into allowable form. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

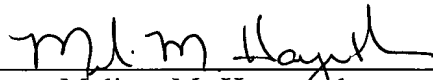
Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, the claims have been amended, as provided above, merely to expedite prosecution. The art of record does not disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims. In view of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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